

## Information on Chlor-alkali Plants and Asbestos

Excerpted from the Responses to Follow-Up Questions from the February 28<sup>th</sup> 2008 House Energy & Commerce Committee Hearing

### Question 3 (the Honorable John D. Dingell):

The use of asbestos diaphragms in the manufacture of chlorine, caustic soda, and other chemicals produced by the chlor-alkali industry was developed in the late 1800's. Other manufacturing techniques that do not involve the use of asbestos have been developed since that time, but more than a dozen chlor-alkali facilities in the United States still rely on asbestos diaphragms. Please provide a list of United States facilities that still use asbestos diaphragms.

For each of the listed facilities:

- Please indicate the total number of diaphragm production units at the facility, along with the number that use asbestos diaphragms vs. the number that have used an asbestos substitute or alternative type of diaphragm.
- Please state the year the facility began operating.

**Response:** At present, the only information available to EPA in connection with the questions posed here is Table 1 from the Chlorine Institute publication entitled Pamphlet 10, *North American Chlor-Alkali Plants and Production Reports – 2007* (attached separately). This Table does not provide all of the specific information requested, but it does provide information on the age of the chlorine plants in the U.S. and the type of cell technology used by the plants.

- Please list the number of pounds of asbestos released by each facility for each of the past three years, as reported pursuant to the Emergency Planning and Community Right To Know Act's Toxics Release Inventory.

**Response;** See chart below:

Facility Name	Location	Primary NAICS Code	Asbestos Releases (Pounds)		
			2004	2005	2006
Olin Corporation	1638 Industrial Rd, McIntosh, AL, 36553	325181	N/A <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>1</sup>
Occidental Chemicals Corp	6200 S. Ridge Rd. Wichita, KS 67215	325181	9795 lbs	12,770 lbs	12,000 lbs
Occidental Chemicals Corp	7377 Highway 3214 Convent, LA 70723	325181	14 lbs	14 lbs	11 lbs

<sup>1</sup> Filed a Form A certification in lieu of a Form R (release) report due to low amount of asbestos.

Occidental Chemicals Corp	266 Highway 3142 Hahnville, LA	325181	200 lbs	652 lbs	531 lbs
Dow Chemical Co. Plaquemine	21255 LA Highway 1S Plaquemine, LA 70765	325199 <sup>2</sup>	489,478 lbs	171,940 lbs	1,388,459 lbs
Georgia Gulf Chemicals & Vinyl LLC	26100 Highway 405 S, Plaquemine, LA 70764	325211	0	0	0
PPG Industries, Inc.	1300 PPG Drive, Westlake, LA 70669	325181	N/A <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>1</sup>
Pioneer Americas LLC (known now as Olin)	8000 Lake Mead Pkwy, Henderson, NV 89015	325181	21,280 lbs	23,612 lbs	26,699 lbs
Occidental Chemicals Corp	4133 Highway 361 Gregory, TX	325199	0	0	0
Occidental Chemicals Corp	4700 Buffalo Ave Niagara Falls, NY 14302	325181	N/A <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>1</sup>
PPG Industries, Inc.	State Route 2 New Martinsville, WV 26155	325181	345 lbs	303 lbs	572 lbs
Oxy Vinyls LP La Porte VCM Plant	2400 Miller Cutoff Rd La Porte, TX 77571	325181	500 lbs	2,000 lbs	821 lbs

<sup>1</sup> Filed a Form A certification in lieu of a Form R (release) report due to low amount of asbestos.

<sup>1</sup> Note that where primary NAICS code is not 325181, secondary NAICS code used to identify facility as chlor-alkali facility

<sup>2</sup> Note that where primary NAICS code is not 325181, secondary NAICS code used to identify facility as chlor-alkali facility.